

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system for detecting spark in an igniter for a gas turbine engine. An igniter generates a plasma, or spark, somewhat similar to an automotive spark plug. In the invention, an inductive pick-up is positioned adjacent the igniter, to detect current pulses in the igniter, to thereby infer the presence of spark. The Inventors have found that this approach is effective, despite the fact that the inductor is surrounded by grounded shielding intended to suppress rf interference, and to protect personnel from high voltages present. The shielding is intended to block the very signals which the invention detects.